



**Preston Joint School District #201
Board of Education**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
7:00 PM

District Office
105 East 2nd South
Preston, ID 83263

1. Call to Order (7:00 PM)
(All agenda times listed below are approximate, and the board may consider an item at an earlier or later start time than indicated herein.)
Dax Keller Called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda - Action Item
A motion to approve the agenda was made.
Motion to approve the agenda. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.
Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
4. Consent Agenda - Action Item
Move to approve the consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.
Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0
 - 4.A. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting - January 15, 2025
 - 4.B. Minutes of Special Board Meeting - January 22, 2025
 - 4.C. Financial Summary - Jan 2025
 - 4.D. Monthly Expenditures - Jan 2025
 - 4.E. Personnel Report - Jan 2025 (no changes to report)
5. Public Requests to Address the Board (7:02 PM) - Stakeholders may request to address the Board in open meeting by filling out the online request form at <https://psd201.org/en-us/meeting-minutes-agenda-691ac9e8>
No public request to address the board was made.
6. Information / ACTION Items (7:05 PM)
 - 6.A. Public Hearing - Proposed Registration Fee Increase: Elementary/Junior High (7:05 PM)
NOTICE & HEARING OF FEE INCREASE

Preston Joint School District No. 201, Franklin and Bannock Counties, has proposed to increase its school fees by an amount of 5% or greater than the fees charged last during the 2024-25 school year.

The following table is an estimate of how the proposed changes may affect students.

Preston Junior High School

Activity Fee	2024-25	2025-26
Amount:	\$0.00	\$5.00

Pioneer and Oakwood Elementary

School Fee	2024-25	2025-26
Amount:	\$15.00	\$20.00

The rationale for the proposed fee increase: Considering the rising costs associated with running school programs and the impact of inflation, a fee increase of \$5 is proposed. This adjustment is essential to ensure that the school can continue to provide high-quality services and maintain operations. The additional funds will help cover the growing expenses and allow the school to invest in improvements that benefit all participants.

All citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the increased fee request. The hearing will be held on February 19th at 7 pm at the Preston Joint School District Administrative Offices, 105 E 2nd S, Preston, Idaho.

Noticed published in the paper: February 12 & 19, 2025

Approve the elementary and junior high school fee increase of \$5. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried. Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.B. Superintendent Report - "Student Achievement & Student Advancement"

- Academic State Champions - 5A Girls Basketball (7:10 PM)
- District Math Vision - Mr. Brandon Lyon (7:15 PM)

Student Achievement and Recognition

Dr. Harrison and Coach Huser introduced the state champion basketball team, highlighting their academic achievements. The board recognized the team's success and the importance of student achievement.

Math Curriculum Changes

Mr. Lyon discussed changes to the math curriculum, focusing on eliminating placement tests and allowing students to choose their math track. The aim is to reduce segregation based on ability and encourage student accountability.

Math Curriculum Changes

The meeting discussed changes to the math curriculum, including options for students to take dual credit classes and the elimination of advanced Algebra II. The aim is to avoid segregating students by ability and align educational goals across schools.

Class Sizes and Course Offerings

The discussion covered the impact of curriculum changes on class sizes, with expectations of an additional Algebra 1 class. The need for more classes that cater to students not interested in college was also highlighted.

Student Goal Setting

The importance of students setting individual goals was emphasized, with a focus on allowing students to choose their educational paths rather than having paths dictated by the school.

Technical Math and Bridgeland Test

Concerns were raised about students failing the Bridgeland welding program due to math test requirements. The curriculum changes aim to better prepare students for such tests.

Progress Monitoring and Testing

The meeting discussed the effectiveness of STAR testing and other assessment tools, with concerns about their suitability for elementary levels.

6.C. IT Work Order Ticketing System - Mr. Aaron Keele (7:30 PM)

- **New Ticketing System**

A new ticketing system was introduced to improve issue tracking and resolution. The system is expected to provide better data for decision-making.

- **Projector Installation**

The installation of projectors was discussed, with most units operational but lacking some functionality. Follow-up is needed to resolve outstanding issues.

- **Ticket Status and Prioritization**

The meeting discussed the different states of ticket status, such as open, pending, and pending vendor, and how they are prioritized based on impact severity. The prioritization is determined by the number of people affected and the impact on teachers' ability to perform their jobs.

6.D. Financial Update - Mrs. Shelby McKenna (7:35 PM)

- **Financial Overview and Funding**

The financial status was reviewed, including the opening of a Cash Valley Bank account with a 4.58% interest rate and the expected state funding by the end of March. The focus was on available funding for an administrative position and the impact of student attendance on budget calculations.

- **Staffing and Budget Challenges**

The district is over budget on administrative and pupil service positions, with funding coming from the general fund. The discussion included the need to address the shortfall and potential solutions like adjusting FTEs, cutting non-essential programs, or using reserves.

- **Legislative Funding Changes**

The potential impact of new legislative funding models on the district's budget was discussed, including the loss of transportation block grants and the possibility of gaining additional funds. The uncertainty of these changes was highlighted.

6.E. Student Enrollment Numbers & Attendance (7:50 PM)

- **Student Enrollment and Online Schools**

Concerns were raised about declining student enrollment and the impact of online schools. The district is looking into its own online school to retain students, amidst legislative discussions that may affect funding for online education.

- **Enrollment and Attendance Concerns**

The meeting discussed concerns about declining enrollment and attendance, which impacts funding. Strategies to improve attendance include marketing campaigns and incentives for students.

6.F. Facility Committee Update and Recommendations - Mr. Craig Kunz (7:55 PM)

- **High School Modernization**

The committee discussed the need for modernization of the high school, considering options like remodeling or building new facilities. Financial constraints and community opinions were considered.

6.G. Sale of District items Previously Declared by the Board as Surplus (8:00 PM)

Date of Sale: Saturday, March 15 10:00AM-12:00PM

6.H. FCHS Emergency Closure - (8:03 PM)

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, the alarms went off at Franklin County High School indicating elevated carbon monoxide. Students and staff evacuated the building and, due to the cold weather, were put on a bus while vital signs were checked by the nurse. The local fire department, district maintenance, and HVAC specialist determined that a rooftop furnace failed, emitting carbon monoxide into the building. Students were sent home that day just after 12:30 PM for lunch on their own. Due to the facility failure, classes at FCHS were canceled for the remaining two (2) hours of Wednesday, December 4, 2024, from 1:05-3:05 PM, and ALL DAY on the following day, Thursday, December 5, 2024.

Idaho Code 33-512(1)(c). "When approved by a local school board, annual instructional hour requirements stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection [that of 900 hours for alternative schools] may be reduced as follows: (ii) Up to a total of eleven (11) hours of emergency school closures due to adverse weather conditions and facility failures."

A regular day of school at FCHS is 6.3 instructional hours, with the total planned hours for the year at 909.8. Administration is requesting the board approve a total of 8.3 emergency closure hours for time missed on 12/4 and 12/5.

Approve emergency closure at FCHS for 2 hours on 12/4/24 and all day on 12/5/24 due to furnace failure. This motion, made by Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

6.I. All Day Every Day Kindergarten Parent Feedback - Mrs. Cindy Murray (8:05 PM)

- **Kindergarten Policy**

The discussion focused on the policy of implementing all-day, every-day kindergarten. The benefits of this approach were highlighted, including improved educational outcomes and reduced pressure on teachers.

Concerns about accommodating parents who prefer half-day options were addressed, with the consensus leaning towards a standard policy without promoting half-day options.

- **Parent Concerns and Accommodations**

The meeting addressed concerns from parents about the length of the kindergarten day. It was noted that some parents have already changed their minds about the full-day program after seeing its benefits. The importance of communicating with parents and addressing individual concerns was emphasized.

- **Funding and Staffing**

The discussion included concerns about funding and staffing for the all-day kindergarten program. It was noted that funding is available for literacy programs, which can support hiring additional teachers if needed. The potential need for more teachers due to increased enrollment was also discussed.

- **State Law and Attendance**

The meeting touched on state laws regarding kindergarten attendance in Idaho, noting that attendance is not mandatory. The implications of this for policy and communication with parents were considered.

Conclusion

- The consensus was to implement an all-day, every-day kindergarten.

The recommendation is to move to kindergarten all day, every day. (4 day). This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

6.J. Cooperative Program Application - West Side combined with Preston Baseball (8:20 PM)

- **Cooperative Sports Program**

Discussion on combining sports programs with Westside, including concerns about funding a JV team and ensuring enough players from both schools.

Approve the cooperative agreement between Preston and West Side for the baseball program. This motion, made by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

6.K. Superintendent Search Update and Plans (8:25 PM)

This is a suggested outline from the board chair for a superintendent search. This is meant for Trustees to discuss and revise based on the needs of the district and the commitments of the Trustees.

Two committees will be formed.

Committee #1- Application review, searching, summarizing and recommendations

This committee will be comprised of
2 teachers (Chosen by the Teacher Association)
2 parents (Chosen by the school board)
1 Staff member (Chosen by the school board)

This committee will be responsible for meeting together on March 3rd. The applications for candidates will have been collected by the Idaho School Board Association. Tamra Harris will receive those applications on March 3rd from the ISBA. She will deliver them to this committee. The committee will review the applications. They will be responsible to call two references and three additional reference not listed. They will compile a report that will give a summary of responses from references, concerns and advantages of each candidate. They will not offer any rating or which candidate is better than another. They will report their findings to the Board of Trustees on March 7th at 5 pm in an executive session. The board will deliberate in executive session. Then in an open public session, the board will entertain a motion to interview candidates with a preference of three. The names of the three finalists and where they are from will be made public. Those candidates will be contacted for a final interview scheduled on March 11th at 2 pm, 3 pm and 4 pm. Each candidate will be asked the same identical questions. These interviews will be held in executive session. Current school leadership will help develop the questions.

Committee #2 will be 1 teacher (appointed by the teachers association), 1 parent, and 1 administrator (both appointed by the Trustees) This committee will organize and carry out a community outreach event. All candidates will be asked to be present together in a separate room. Each candidate will be invited into the School Board room to answer identical questions for a period that will last no longer than thirty minutes beginning at 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm, and 7:00 pm. Community members and district staff are welcome to attend in person or via zoom. The committee will present the questions. The committee will determine the best way to advertise the event. The committee will determine the best way to gather responses from the community for input to the Trustees with possibly using comment cards the ISBA uses.

The Board of Trustees will reconvene on March 11th at 8 pm to make a final hiring decision with the possibility to make the final decision on March 12th if needed.

Tamra Harris will facilitate these committees by providing space, reading the expectations of the committee and assisting them with items they may need to do the job they are asked to do.

It is asked of the Board to bring suggestions of parents, staff or administrators that they feel would be stellar to serve on these committees.

7. Policy - Action Item (8:35 PM)

7.A. Policy 1st Reading

Holinka Law updated Policy 576 to include pertinent definitions, a section on extended field trips, student participation, and student responsibilities.

A half dozen different Field Trip Forms are also included in the attachments for board awareness, but not for adoption as policy. For informational purposes, the superintendent is working with the executive leadership team to develop consistent field trip forms that can be used district-wide for things related to approval, itinerary, parent consent, volunteer disclosure, volunteer guidelines, and driver consent.

Move Policy 576 to a second reading. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.

Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2

Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

7.B. Policy 2nd Reading

In **Policy 470 Non-Certified Employees**, Holinka Law combined three previous policies on classified staff into one new policy. Once Policy 470 is adopted, DELETE the following policies, which were once included as part of 470.

471 - Non-Certificated Employees: At-Will Employment

472 - Salary Schedules for Non-Certificated Employees

473 - Group Health Insurance for Non-Certificated Employee

Regarding **Policy 846 Travel Allowance**, a trustee recommendation to limit lodging expenses in the policy was shared at last month's board meeting. Edits made in the draft policy since the first reading include the following changes:

- A sentence was highlighted in the opening paragraph, **"Travel and the payment of expenses must be preapproved."**
- Restated that travel must be approved for reimbursement by adding the phrase at the end of the sentence-"The following rates will apply **for approved travel**:"
- Added emphasis that the traveler should secure a tax-exempt booking while representing the school district. The employee should request the government room rate while making reservations and **work with administrative assistants to ensure the method of payment results in the room being tax-exempt.**
- [Keep in mind that the policy already states that there is a maximum amount of lodging set by the Idaho Board of Examiners. That amount listed is under \$150 for most Idaho cities.]

Move Policy 470 and 846 to Board Policy. Remove board policies 471, 472, and 473. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

7.C. Policy 3rd Reading

This week in the 2025 legislative session, a bill was introduced in a House Education Committee meeting that, if eventually passed as law effective July 1, may require this student use of communication device policy to be updated again before next school year. But this current policy contains the required components that will allow the district to receive \$5000 this year to purchase such items as cell phone storage holders or filtering programs to help implement the policy limiting cell phone use at school.

Move Policy 518 to Board Policy. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

8. Executive Session (8:45 PM) - Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student
Move to executive session. This motion, made by Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee) and seconded by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee), Carried.

*Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0*

9. Resume Open Session (8:55 PM)

Move out of executive session. This motion, made by Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee) and seconded by Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee), Carried.

Chris Jones (Zone 4 Trustee): Yea, Dax Keller (Zone 3 Trustee): Yea, Geniel Lyons (Zone 2 Trustee): Yea, Launa Moser (Zone 1 Trustee): Yea, Susan Yardley (Zone 5 Trustee): Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

10. Board Meeting Summary and Assignment Review

- Ticketing system
 - Report on projectors. They want to see what tickets are still open and that we are not just closing them.
- Attendance money
 - How do we get money report
 - Ideas to increase attendance
 - Ideas for more electives at high school
- All policy in 1st reading combined.
- Follow up on the Star/Aimsweb plan
- How to prioritize things and find where to cut.
- Look into the legality of SPED on field trips.
- Define volunteer vs. sponsored. What is school-sponsored?
- Find out how first-hour fire drills are handled at the Jr. High. (district wide to)
- Last-minute things need to be texted.
- Parents and guardians know 48 hours before an activity.

11. Adjourn (9:00 PM)

The meeting was adjourned.